

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Chris Williams (District 3), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4)

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Becky LaLumia (Assistant CAO/Finance & Management), Steve Dupuis (Legal Counsel)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(246) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Special Council Meeting of March 5, 2003 to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(247) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Executive Session to discuss the pending litigation styled "Regency Construction, Inc. vs. Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, Docket No. 2003-0718F, 15th Judicial District Court, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana".

A motion was offered by Castille, seconded by Stevenson, to go into executive session, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Council went into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

A motion was offered by Castille, seconded by Stevenson, to go back into regular session, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(266) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: R-012-2003 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council providing direction to the Administration with reference to Hurricane Lili debris removal from coulees/channels, from right-of-way overhangs and private property, motion to adopt by Broussard, seconded by Stevenson.

Chair Trumps recommended that each issue be taken up one at a time. They are as follows:

1. A motion was offered by Broussard, seconded by Williams to amend Section 2(1) as follows: Coulees/channels hurricane debris removal – to amend the existing Omni contract to include coulees/channels hurricane debris removal, if approved by F.E.M.A., and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Upon questioning by the Council, it was determined that Omni is still in the City and desires to proceed with the existing contract. According to Dupuis, a change order is within the scope of the contract.

2. A motion was offered by Broussard, seconded by Williams to amend Section 2(2) as follows: Right-of-way overhangs hurricane debris removal –

Option 1: to amend any existing City-Parish contracts for rights-of-way to accommodate the overhangs hurricane debris removal, if approved by F.E.M.A.

Option 2: if Option 1 is not approved by F.E.M.A., then rebid, if approved by F.E.M.A., and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

3. A motion was offered by Menard, seconded by Williams to amend Section 2(3) as follows: Private property hurricane debris removal – to rebid, if approved by F.E.M.A., and if bid is still too high, address the issue or abandon the project

Mouton asked if the project was re-bid and again rejected, would the Council open themselves up for further litigation. Dupuis opined that if the Council does reject all bids, they might be subject to further litigation to challenge the process. Mouton then urged defeat of the above amendment.

The Chair then called for a vote on the amendment and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Menard

NAYS: Badeaux, Castille, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion failed. No further action was taken regarding Item 3.

Upon questioning by Williams, Joe Maniscalco, Associate Director of Operations and Maintenance explained that 1,018 individuals qualified for private property tree removal out of 1,600 requests. It was advertised that LCG was going to offer a program in accordance with F.E.M.A. guidelines to cut trees and/or trim trees that were hazards within a certain distance from a structure that poses an immediate hazard. F.E.M.A. organized the inspectors and the teams they sent out along with Louisiana Agriculture and Forestry Personnel and with inspectors provided by LCG. He added that a card would be sent to the 1,018 individuals telling them that LCG will no longer participate in that program. Williams then requested the addresses of the 1,018 individuals and voiced his disappointment of not being able to help the citizens of Lafayette Parish.

Broussard pointed out that it was the circumstances with the bids. He did feel obligated to help the citizens, however; he was not sure what the cost of the lawsuit would be and what F.E.M.A. would reimburse LCG.

The Chair then called for a vote on the ordinance as amended, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(683) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the Special Council Meeting adjourned.

NORMA A. DUGAS
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL